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ABSTRACT

This statistical report aims to convey a clear picture of the scope, nature, and seriousness of the child abuse problem in Illinois for fiscal year 1985. Because special efforts were made in regard to child sexual abuse, this problem is treated as a separate category in the report. Discussed in six sections are data concerning (1) the nature of the child abuse problem; (2) the magnitude of the problem; (3) efforts to confront the problem, including the Child Abuse Hotline and the State Central Register, as well as investigations of reports of suspected child abuse and neglect; (4) results of investigations, particularly concerning the finding status of reports, fatalities, sexual abuse reports, and perpetrators; (5) accomplishments in fiscal year 1985; and goals for fiscal year 1986. The report includes 24 tables of data and a list, with addresses, of members of the Statewide Citizens' Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect. (RH)

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Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics

Annual Report - Fiscal Year 1985

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

PS 015932

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About This Report . . .

This is the Child Abuse and Neglect Statistical Report of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for fiscal year 1985. It conveys a clear picture of the child abuse problem in Illinois—its scope, nature, and seriousness—and what the Department of Children and Family Services is doing to protect the state's most vulnerable citizens.

The Department's top priority is to assure the safety of children who have been victimized by abuse or neglect at the hands of their parents or caretakers. Accordingly, the Department in the past several years has implemented major reforms that have encouraged timely reporting of abuse and neglect cases and promoted efficient, compassionate agency response to those reports. Special efforts have focused on the response to reports of child sexual abuse. This is reflected in the special section in this report on the sexual abuse problem.

Whether you are a private citizen, a concerned professional or a student, I urge you to study the report carefully. Statistics cannot prevent or cure child abuse, but perceptive analysis of data can afford a better understanding of this pervasive social problem. I believe this deeper understanding will unlock the door to better protection of children and improved services for their families.

Gordon Johnson

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I. Nature of the Problem

A. Definitions

The Illinois Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (P.A. 81-1077, effective July 1, 1980), the state's most recently enacted child abuse and neglect law, defines an "abused child" as:

- a child whose parent or immediate family member, or any person responsible for the child's welfare, or any individual residing in the same home as the child, or a paramour of the child's parent
  - a. inflicts, causes to be inflicted, or allows to be inflicted upon such child physical injury, by other than accidental means, which causes death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
  - b. creates a substantial risk of physical injury to such child by other than accidental means which would be likely to cause death, disfigurement, impairment of physical or emotional health, or loss or impairment of any bodily function;
  - c. commits or allows to be committed any sex offense against such child, as such sex offenses are defined in the Criminal Code of 1961, as amended, and extending those definitions of sex offenses to include children under 18 years of age;
  - d. commits or allows to be committed an act or acts of torture upon such child; or
  - e. inflicts excessive corporal punishment.

A "neglected child" according to the law means:

- any child whose parent, or other person responsible for the child's welfare does not provide the proper or necessary support, education as required by law, or medical or other remedial care recognized under State law as necessary for a child's well-being; or other care necessary for his or her well-being, including adequate food, clothing and shelter; or who is abandoned by his or her parents or other person responsible for the child's welfare.

II. Magnitude of the Problem

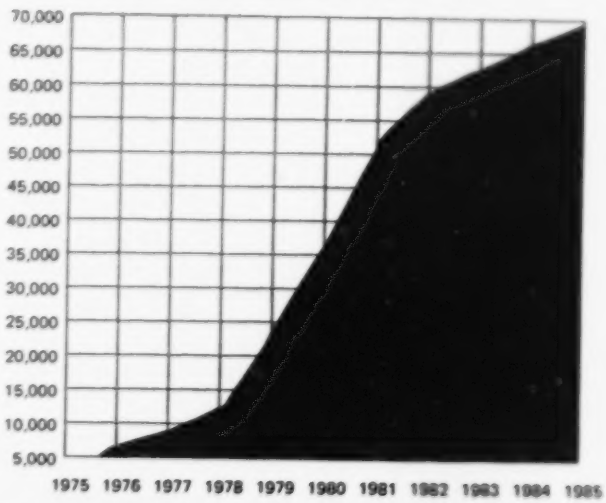
A. Historical Perspective

The number of Illinois children reported as victims of child abuse and neglect has increased enormously during the past 10 years. Fewer than 3,000 children were reported in fiscal year 1975, compared to nearly 70,000 children in fiscal year 1985.

B. Report Volume During Fiscal Year 1985

During state fiscal year 1985 (July 1, 1984 to June 30, 1985), 69,627 Illinois children were reported as victims of child abuse and/or neglect. Illinois

Table 1
Increase of Children
Reported as Abused or Neglected
Fiscal Years 1975 through 1985



Fiscal Year	Children	Percent of Increase From Previous Year
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1976	6,734	141.1%
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1978	13,453	46.5%
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1980	37,476	51.1%
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1982	59,194	14.8%
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
1984	67,058	5.7%
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

had a "reporting rate" in fiscal year 1985 of 21.5 alleged victims per 1,000 children (Table 2). In other words, about 2 percent of all Illinois children under 18 years of age were reported during the fiscal year as victims of suspected abuse and neglect.

Investigations conducted by the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) found that abuse or neglect allegations for 32,545 of the reported children were "indicated"—that is, credible evidence was gathered which would cause a reasonable person to believe a child was abused or neglected. Illinois had an "indicated rate" during fiscal year 1985 of 10.0 children per 1,000 children under 18 years of age. Less than half of all reported children were found to have been actually abused or neglected.

Table 3 shows comparative figures on child abuse and neglect reports and reporting rates for the state's eight service regions for fiscal years 1983 through 1985. The Chicago and Aurora regions, the two most populous regions in the state, have the lowest reporting rates. Since the promulgation of the amended Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act (July 1, 1980) and the introduction of a revamped child protective system (May 1, 1981), the reporting rate has more than doubled in these two regions.

Reporting rates nationwide tend to be higher in rural areas than in urban and suburban areas.[1] Suburban areas tend to have the lowest reporting rate. Table 4 provides data showing distribution of reports by Illinois county for the past four

Table 2
Reporting Rates in Illinois
Fiscal Year 1985

Children under 18 years of age	3,243,037*	Indicated Reports	
Reports to the State Central Register		Indicated family reports	19,537
Family reports to SCR	41,463	Victims with indicated allegations	32,545
Alleged victims listed in reports	69,627	Percent of family reports indicated	47.1
Reported incidence: reports of alleged victims per 1,000 children	21.5	Percent of victims with indicated allegations	46.7
		Indicated incidence: victims with indicated allegations per 1,000 children	10.0

*From 1980 U.S. Census

Table 3
Distribution by Region of Reports of Children Allegedly Abused or Neglected

Region	Fiscal Year 1983 Number	Percent	Rate*	Fiscal Year 1984 Number	Percent	Rate*	Fiscal Year 1985 Number	Percent	Rate*
Rockford	3,591	5.7	20.9	4,008	6.0	23.3	4,168	6.0	24.3
Peoria	5,963	9.2	21.8	6,166	9.2	22.6	6,368	9.1	23.3
Aurora	8,428	13.3	13.5	9,122	13.6	14.6	9,654	13.9	15.4
Chicago	26,197	41.3	17.9	28,391	42.2	19.4	29,906	43.0	20.5
Springfield	3,919	6.2	24.2	4,101	6.1	25.3	4,017	5.8	24.8
Champaign	5,730	9.0	27.3	5,634	8.4	26.9	5,912	8.5	28.2
East St. Louis	5,558	8.8	29.6	5,505	8.2	29.3	5,504	7.9	29.3
Marion	4,143	6.5	27.4	4,232	6.3	28.0	4,097	5.9	27.1
Not Specified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
State	63,432	100.0	19.6	67,058	100.0	20.7	69,627	100.0	21.5

*Rate per 1,000 of the region's children under age 18 (from 1980 U.S. Census)

NOTE

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *The National Study of the Incidence and Severity of Child Abuse and Neglect*, Publication No. (OHDA) 81-30325, issued September 11, 1981.

Table 4
Distribution by County of Reports of Children Allegedly Abused and Neglected

County	Fiscal Year [illegible] Number	Rate	Fiscal Year [illegible] Number	Rate	Fiscal Year [illegible] Number	Rate	Fiscal Year [illegible] Number	Rate
Adams	937	47.4	629	31.8	645	32.6	596	30.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Bond	33	7.8	97	22.8	80	18.8	71	16.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Brown*	32	21.7	39	26.5	37	25.1	32	21.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Calhoun*	15	9.3	26	16.0	11	6.8	16	9.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Cass	92	21.4	154	35.9	121	28.2	98	22.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Christian	219	21.2	245	23.5	262	25.4	211	20.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Clay	116	28.0	88	21.2	120	29.0	94	22.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Coles	393	33.6	428	36.6	388	33.2	460	39.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Crawford	55	10.2	57	10.6	96	17.8	69	12.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
DeKalb	284	16.6	336	19.6	335	19.5	339	19.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Douglas	94	14.8	110	19.4	115	20.3	96	16.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Edgar	197	33.0	223	37.4	182	30.5	139	23.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Effingham	231	23.9	214	22.1	168	17.4	170	17.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ford	77	18.5	70	16.8	91	21.9	73	17.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Fulton	261	21.2	272	22.1	314	25.5	301	24.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Greene	97	20.7	77	16.5	103	22.0	114	24.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hamilton*	56	24.2	55	24.2	37	16.2	43	18.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Hardin*	44	30.4	51	35.3	40	27.7	22	15.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Henry	157	8.9	194	11.1	203	11.6	221	12.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jackson	327	26.0	416	33.0	422	33.5	439	34.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jefferson	257	25.2	292	28.6	295	28.9	302	29.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Jo Daviess	78	10.8	90	12.5	108	15.0	119	16.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kane**	1,688	19.2	1,961	22.4	2,093	23.9	2,238	25.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Kendall	135	10.8	154	12.3	133	10.7	119	9.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lake**	1,504	11.2	1,737	13.0	2,054	15.4	2,138	16.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Lawrence	50	10.6	82	17.3	103	21.8	88	18.6
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

County	Fiscal Year [illegible] Number	Rate	Fiscal Year [illegible] Number	Rate	Fiscal Year [illegible] Number	Rate	Fiscal Year [illegible] Number	Rate
Livingston	186	17.7	217	19.3	220	19.6	252	22.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Macon**	942	24.7	1,153	30.2	1,068	28.0	1,220	32.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Madison**	1,702	24.3	1,993	28.5	2,051	29.3	1,992	28.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Marshall	62	14.7	30	7.1	57	13.5	52	12.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Massac	139	35.5	131	33.5	136	34.8	123	31.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
McHenry**	396	8.4	625	13.3	593	12.6	669	14.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Menard	74	21.7	53	15.5	37	10.8	72	21.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Monroe	43	7.4	56	9.6	72	12.3	45	7.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Morgan	243	24.1	261	25.9	253	25.1	246	24.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Ogle	163	11.6	198	14.1	272	19.3	245	17.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Perry	107	17.3	123	19.9	153	24.8	149	24.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pike	135	26.8	127	25.2	145	28.8	123	24.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Pulaski*	155	58.7	158	59.8	136	51.5	128	48.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Randolph	140	14.9	156	16.6	101	10.7	165	17.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Rock Island**	949	20.2	1,187	25.3	1,185	25.3	1,253	26.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sangamon**	1,086	22.0	1,229	25.4	1,336	27.6	1,443	29.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Scott*	17	10.4	25	15.2	18	11.0	32	19.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stark*	12	5.6	23	14.0	14	6.5	25	11.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stephenson	346	24.7	277	19.8	366	26.2	364	26.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Union	114	27.6	144	34.8	206	49.8	161	38.9
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Wabash	53	14.0	67	17.6	80	21.1	100	26.3
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Washington	30	7.1	29	6.9	34	8.1	64	15.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
White	107	24.8	94	21.8	96	22.2	110	25.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Will**	1,887	15.5	1,618	13.0	1,931	17.0	1,923	17.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Winnebago**	1,591	21.4	1,883	25.1	1,998	26.9	2,115	28.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Not Specified	91		58		22		12	
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

* = population under 10,000 ** = population over 100,000

Table 5
Comparison of Reporting Rates by Type of County

National Estimate		FY 1983	FY 1984	FY 1985
Urban	19.5 per 1,000	18.4	20.1	21.1
Suburban	10.9 per 1,000	12.8	14.1	15.0
Rural	20.9 per 1,000	22.8	22.5	22.0
TOTAL	17.8 per 1,000	19.6	20.7	21.5

fiscal years and the reporting rate per 1,000 of each county's child population (0-18 years).

Nineteen Illinois counties have a population in excess of 100,000. The average reporting rate in these urban counties is 21.1 children per 1,000. In 14 rural counties with populations of less than 10,000, the average reporting rate was 22.0 children per 1,000.

The state's suburban counties—Lake, DuPage, Kane, Will and McHenry—have an average reporting rate of 15.0 per 1,000. As noted in Table 5, reporting trends in Illinois are consistent with reporting trends in urban, suburban, and rural areas nationwide.

Although the number of reports of suspected child abuse and neglect has increased each fiscal year, the rate of increase has declined since fiscal year 1979 (see Table 1). The decreasing growth rate is attributed to several factors. A massive educational campaign in fiscal year 1979 promoted an increased public awareness of child abuse and neglect. The number of children reported as victims of suspected abuse and neglect increased by 84.4 percent in fiscal year 1979. As the educational campaign reached most of its intended audience, the reporting rate began to stabilize. In addition, the number of children reported as being abused or neglected may be approaching the actual number (as yet unknown).

C. Demographics

Although the number of children reported as being abused or neglected has increased over the past several fiscal years, changes in age, sex, and race distribution have not been significant. Consistently, more than two-thirds of all children reported have been nine years of age or younger (Table 6).

Table 6
Demographic Characteristics of Children Reported as Abused or Neglected
Fiscal Years 1983 through 1985

Child Characteristics	Fiscal Year 1983 Number	Percent	Rate*	Fiscal Year 1984 Number	Percent	Rate*	Fiscal Year 1985 Number	Percent	Rate*
Age of Child									
0-2	15,335	24.2	29.7	15,856	23.6	30.7	16,791	22.7	32.5
3-5	13,248	20.9	27.2	14,571	21.7	29.9	16,256	21.9	31.3
6-9	14,050	22.1	20.4	15,090	22.5	21.9	15,539	22.3	22.6
10-13	11,930	18.8	15.9	12,490	18.6	17.1	12,883	17.7	17.0
14-17	7,823	12.3	9.5	8,572	12.8	10.4	9,214	13.2	11.2
Age not reported	1,427	2.2	—	539	.8	—	478	.7	—
Sex of Child									
Boys	31,095	49.0	18.9	32,705	48.8	19.7	33,240	47.7	20.1
Girls	30,966	48.8	19.5	33,923	50.6	21.4	35,934	51.6	22.7
Sex not reported	1,371	2.2	—	439	.6	—	447	.6	—
Child's Ethnic Group									
White	36,490	57.5	15.0	38,263	57.2	16.6	39,119	56.2	17.0
Black	21,502	33.9	35.1	23,020	34.3	37.6	24,504	35.2	40.0
Hispanic	3,065	4.8	13.0	3,063	4.5	14.3	3,813	5.5	14.9
Other/Not Specified	2,367	3.8	—	2,012	3.0	—	2,191	3.1	—
TOTAL	63,432		19.6	67,068		20.7	69,527		21.5

*Rate per 1,000 children under age 18 (from 1980 U.S. Census)

Children 0-2 years old have accounted for 24 percent of all reports during the past three fiscal years. Reporting rates in Illinois have generally declined with increasing age. Overall reporting rates are essentially the same for both boys and girls. Along racial lines, however, black children are disproportionately reported. Approximately 20 percent of the child population in Illinois is black, but 35 percent of the children reported as abused or neglected were black. It should also be noted that, while white and Hispanic ethnic groups have remained at nearly the same percentage during the past four fiscal years, the "Other/Not Specified" category has continued a consistent decline. With an improved information system, it is likely that race is recorded more accurately, so that the increase in the percentage of black children reported and the decrease in the "Other/Not Specified" category reflect, in part, improved record-keeping.

III. Confronting the Problem

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services is the state agency designated to investigate reports of suspected child abuse and neglect. Because of the need to respond systematically and thoroughly to the increasing number of reports, a total redesign of the state's child protection system was initiated in fiscal year 1981.

A. Child Abuse Hotline and the State Central Register

Since the beginning of fiscal year 1981, the Department has assumed a national leadership position in the development of centralized reporting of child abuse and neglect. The "hub" of the state's child protection system is the computerized State Central Register (SCR) and the statewide, toll-free reporting hotline. The State Central Register houses a sophisticated computer system which operates around the clock with 21 visual display terminals. The toll-free number is 1-800-252-2873 (1-800-25A-BUSE). Persons outside the state wishing to report suspected child abuse or neglect in Illinois may call 217-785-4020.

When a person telephones the State Central Register hotline, a specially trained social worker requests information to determine if the call constitutes a report. A report of suspected child abuse or neglect must have four basic elements:

- a child under 18 years of age
- a caretaker responsible for the victim
- a set of circumstances or specific incident
- harm or substantial risk of harm to the child

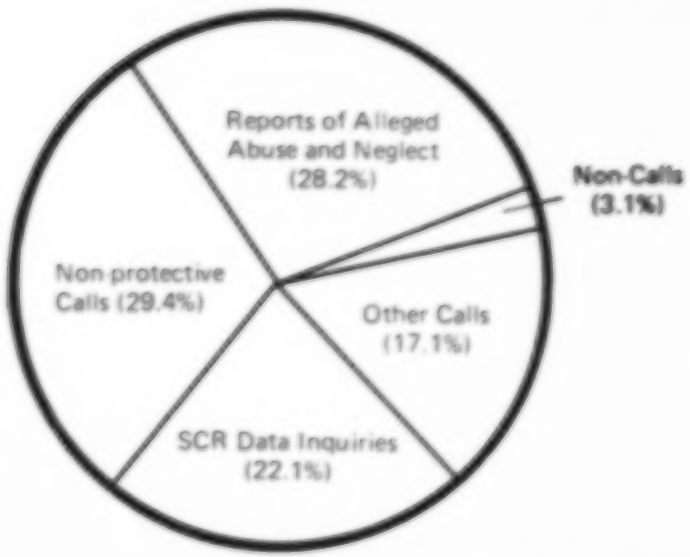
The social worker then searches the Central Register computer files to find out whether a prior indicated report of abuse or neglect exists on any person in the report, including a child or an alleged perpetrator. If the reporter is doubtful about the spelling of a name, the computer's "Soundex" search system will display on the terminal all names on file that sound like the reported names, along with accompanying age, race, and address. This information, which is displayed in seconds, includes the date and nature of prior indicated reports on alleged victims and all other adults and children in the family, action taken during these investigations (court activity, protective custody, foster care placement, etc.), family or caretaker relationship, and the identity of the perpetrator and caseworker.

Details of the new report and background information are transmitted to the appropriate investigative team. The new report data is then entered on the terminal and set up on the computer file to await updating when the field investigation is completed. Information about previously indicated reports is available to authorized persons at any time of the day or night.

During fiscal year 1985, the State Central Register received 167,610 calls, of which 28.2 percent were directly related to abuse and neglect reports. Another 29.4 percent of the calls were for information or help with child-related problems not involving abuse and neglect, and 22.1 percent were for current data from computer files (SCR Data Inquiries) to authorized persons reporting or investigating an alleged abuse and neglect report. Figure 1 presents types and percentages of incoming calls to the State Central Register during fiscal year 1985.

Figure 1
Types of Incoming Calls to the State Central Register
Fiscal Year 1985

Reports of Alleged Abuse and Neglect – Calls containing abuse, neglect allegations
Non-protective Calls – Requests for information or assistance with a child-related problem not directly related to current abuse or neglect
SCR Data Inquiries – Inquiries by authorized persons requesting "prior" information or status of a current investigation
Other Calls – Calls not classified in one of the above categories
Non-calls – Hangups, wrong numbers, and "crank" calls



Reports may be made by private citizens or by mandated reporters—persons required by law (teachers, physicians, law enforcement officers, etc.) to report suspected child abuse and neglect. During fiscal year 1985, mandated reporters made 56.9 percent of all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect (Table 7). Medical personnel were responsible for the largest percentage of reports from mandated sources (15.4 percent) and coroner/medical examiner the smallest (0.1 percent). National estimates by reporting source are very similar to Illinois except for medical personnel. Nationwide, medical personnel make fewer reports than other mandated sources.[1] Reports made by relatives, friends, neighbors, or child victims accounted for nearly 30 percent of all reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.

NOTE

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, op. cit., 1981.

Table 7
Source of Reports by Region
Fiscal Year 1985

Reporter Type	Rockford	Peoria	Aurora	Chicago	Springfield	Champaign	E. St. Louis	Marion	State	Percent of Total Reporters
MANDATED										
Clinic or Hospital Physician	31	57	95	868	30	59	32	26	1,329	3.7
Nurse (LPN)	4	9	5	6	5	5	4	6	47	.1
Nurse (RN)	138	373	356	964	72	158	96	96	2,254	6.4
Private Physician	41	66	69	139	21	45	37	17	435	1.0
Hospital Social Worker	97	62	215	1,409	81	68	68	38	2,169	5.2
Other Medical Personnel	9	9	36	79	6	19	6	10	179	.4
Total Medical	248	476	781	3,649	207	391	456	193	6,385	15.4
School Counselor	68	40	96	178	39	57	36	35	510	1.5
Principal	104	172	256	842	156	167	82	107	1,619	3.6
School Nurse	84	83	146	130	30	73	66	58	710	1.7
School Social Worker	60	94	223	385	82	91	71	26	1,039	3.6
Teacher	92	90	126	219	55	75	62	79	739	1.6
Assistant Principal	4	15	28	84	6	6	6	2	130	.3
Truant Officer	16	4	19	156	1	7	11	1	150	.4
Other School Personnel	22	55	70	94	42	49	22	24	387	.9
Total School Personnel	394	498	1,104	1,935	330	526	367	317	5,484	13.2
DCFS Social Worker	148	210	140	999	116	220	261	164	2,137	5.2
Department of Corrections Staff	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0
Department of Public Aid Staff	32	39	44	139	23	34	42	44	371	.9
Institutional Staff	0	3	0	36	0	2	4	2	47	.1
Mental Health Personnel	10	41	22	122	36	58	48	31	423	1.0
Private Agency Social Worker	15	134	178	686	57	87	66	46	1,269	2.9
Psychologist	7	30	36	113	9	7	9	6	217	.5
Other Social Services	107	192	278	803	75	191	138	149	1,726	4.1
Total Social Services	420	637	733	2,421	356	553	568	431	6,119	14.6
Court	1	4	10	40	0	0	0	1	60	.1
Emergency Services Staff	1	1	2	3	2	6	2	1	12	.0
Parole/Probation Officer	33	34	32	146	13	11	5	7	275	.7
Police Officer	374	471	104	873	214	336	339	264	3,380	8.2
State's Attorney	18	38	10	42	12	16	5	11	107	.2
Juvenile Officer	29	93	337	619	38	58	33	9	1,111	2.7
Other Law Enforcement Personnel	9	25	66	73	18	21	23	21	246	.6
Total Law Enforcement	356	606	1075	1,796	296	443	298	311	5,192	12.5
Coroner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Medical Examiner	0	0	2	31	0	0	0	0	33	.1
Total Coroner/Medical Examiner	0	0	2	31	0	0	0	0	33	.1
Day Care/Night Care Center	36	24	42	97	36	24	19	16	271	.7
Day Care/Night Care Home	3	3	4	9	3	1	2	3	28	.1
Pre-School Nursery	0	0	15	18	3	10	1	5	66	.2
Total Child Care Centers	47	31	61	124	42	35	27	24	365	.9
TOTAL MANDATED REPORTERS	1,471	2,302	3,754	9,953	1,230	1,948	1,695	1,268	23,178	54.9
NON-MANDATED										
Father/Father Substitute	88	142	269	983	104	136	110	106	1,585	3.8
Friend/Neighbor	329	472	977	1,709	389	504	414	369	4,941	11.7
Mother/Mother Substitute	125	146	240	539	140	188	132	154	1,643	4.0
Relative	144	240	408	1,903	194	255	262	196	3,648	8.8
Sibling	5	16	15	53	6	8	6	4	115	.3
Victim	28	19	39	152	26	37	37	25	349	.8
Total Relative/Neighbor	727	1,040	1,580	5,131	838	1,128	953	804	12,176	29.3
Non-Center/Home Child Care	0	1	4	7	0	2	3	1	24	.1
Babysitter	13	23	45	146	13	34	13	13	186	.5
Other Child Care Provider	6	8	7	26	6	6	7	6	80	.2
Landlord	17	16	38	147	18	28	25	26	360	.7
Anonymous	248	418	883	1,639	286	451	353	371	4,294	10.2
Other Reporting Source	87	80	141	255	71	113	86	71	878	2.1
Unknown	0	0	0	1	0	4	2	3	10	0
Total Other	349	543	793	2,115	405	638	477	429	5,739	13.8
TOTAL NON-MANDATED REPORTERS	1,076	1,583	2,373	7,246	1,243	1,766	1,430	1,233	17,915	43.1
TOTAL ALL REPORTERS	2,551	3,885	6,129	17,149	2,463	3,714	3,135	2,499	41,093	100.0%

Table 8A
Distribution by Region of Family Reports, Alleged Child Victims, and Harms
Fiscal Year 1985

Peoria	3,885	6,369	1.63	8,497	1.33
Chicago	17,149	29,906	1.74	43,323	1.44
Champaign	3,652	5,912	1.61	8,052	1.36
Marion	2,499	4,097	1.63	5,609	1.36

When a report of child abuse or neglect is made to the State Central Register, suspected harms to the child are identified by the hotline social worker. Each harm must be addressed during the process of the investigation. For example, a reporter may suspect that a child has been left alone without a caretaker and has been bruised by a caretaker. In this situation, two harms would be identified for this child.

If other harms are discovered during the investigation, these will also be added to the list. There were 97,268 specified alleged harms to children in fiscal year 1985, an average of 1.39 harms for each suspected child victim (Tables 8A and 8B). The 41,463 family reports involved 69,627 children, or 1.67 children per family report.

As noted in Table 9, reports alleging only abuse harms (called abuse reports) and those alleging only neglect harms (called neglect reports) were nearly equal. The distribution of reports alleging only abuse harms, only neglect harms, or both abuse and neglect harms (abuse/neglect reports) is fairly consistent throughout all regions in the state. Figure 2 illustrates that more than half the reported harms (55.2 percent) involved lack of supervision or environmental neglect.

Table 10 provides a detailed look at specific harms of abuse and neglect reported and indicated.

When the computerized Central Register was first established, centralized reporting of suspected abuse and neglect was impeded by the slow transmission of vital information from the Register to investigators in the field offices. The reports were transmitted by telephone. A social worker in the Register would transmit the information orally to a field investigator, who would duplicate the data on his or her own report form, confirm spellings and addresses, and then proceed on the investigation. Each report took an average of 15 minutes to transmit. Since one purpose of the State Central Register is to use the most modern means available to communicate with the entire state in what may be life-and-death situations, using the telephone to transmit information to investigators meant that hotline workers were not always available to receive incoming calls. A solution to this problem was the installation of a telecopier facsimile network at the State Central Register and all investigative team headquarters. A report taken at the State Central Register (or at a local office) can be immediately telecopied to the appropriate office. The facsimile network has reduced the amount of time and manpower necessary to communicate reports of suspected child abuse and neglect.

Table 14
Indicated Reports: Sources by Region
Fiscal Year 1985

Reporter Type	Rockford	Peoria	Aurora	Chicago	Springfield	Champaign	E. St. Louis	Marion	State	Percent Indicated by Group
MANDATED										
Clinic or Hospital Physician	16	23	49	647	15	32	13	14	809	60.9
Nurse (LPN)	4	6	1	7	3	2	3	3	29	61.7
Nurse (RN)	75	120	194	634	39	77	106	43	1,288	57.9
Private Physician	26	34	36	77	16	26	20	9	244	58.1
Hospital Social Worker	26	31	118	972	39	61	103	17	1,367	63.0
Other Medical Personnel	6	5	16	36	5	7	4	7	86	48.0
Total medical	153	219	414	2,373	117	205	249	93	3,823	59.9
School Counselor	38	23	51	114	15	23	14	14	292	56.3
Principal	68	94	131	376	71	109	54	48	951	58.7
School Nurse	71	36	110	76	8	36	38	33	408	57.5
School Social Worker	26	24	151	393	11	49	52	12	718	58.4
Teacher	30	39	41	124	19	29	37	32	351	47.5
Assistant Principal	3	7	16	43	2	4	3	1	79	60.8
Truant Officer	4	4	12	65	1	0	8	1	95	63.3
Other School Personnel	14	29	41	61	21	32	12	7	217	56.1
Total School Personnel	254	256	553	1,252	148	282	218	148	3,111	56.7
DCFS Social Worker	97	109	94	481	64	139	172	103	1,239	58.0
Department of Corrections Staff	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	100.0
Department of Public Aid Staff	11	6	14	57	6	6	12	10	122	32.9
Institutional Staff	1	2	3	14	1	2	2	1	26	61.9
Mental Health Personnel	26	27	28	75	24	30	11	27	248	58.6
Private Agency Social Worker	49	50	86	346	20	45	34	21	651	53.9
Psychologist	2	13	14	53	4	3	6	2	97	44.7
Other Social Services	72	89	133	306	27	83	68	53	831	48.3
Total Social Services	258	296	372	1,312	146	309	305	217	3,215	52.5
Court	1	0	2	20	0	0	1	1	25	41.7
Emergency Services Staff	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	0	6	50.0
Parole/Probation Officer	18	12	17	83	7	6	2	4	149	54.2
Police Officer	184	305	422	633	107	228	135	157	2,171	64.2
State's Attorney	4	14	6	5	6	10	0	8	53	52.0
Juvenile Officer	20	67	144	479	23	37	20	2	792	71.3
Other Law Enforcement Personnel	5	16	39	30	11	10	12	11	134	53.8
Total Law Enforcement	233	415	631	1,252	154	291	171	183	3,330	64.1
Coroner	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	—
Medical Examiner	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	15	45.5
Total Coroner Medical Examiner	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	0	15	45.5
Day Care/Night Care Center	21	7	19	49	14	12	10	2	134	49.3
Day Care/Night Care Home	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	1	11	39.3
Pre-School Nursery	5	2	6	7	2	4	0	2	28	42.4
Total Child Care Centers	27	10	26	60	17	17	11	5	173	47.4
TOTAL MANDATED REPORTERS	925	1,196	1,996	5,764	582	1,104	954	646	13,667	58.0
NON MANDATED										
Father/Father Substitute	33	34	58	147	23	34	24	24	377	23.8
Friend/Neighbor	110	130	188	564	99	155	114	92	1,452	30.0
Mother/Mother Substitute	59	62	107	268	65	79	51	80	771	46.9
Relative	66	77	160	958	58	84	109	67	1,619	44.4
Sibling	3	5	7	27	2	3	3	1	51	44.3
Victim	13	7	13	66	10	5	15	12	141	40.8
Total Relative Neighbor	284	315	533	2,070	257	360	316	276	4,411	36.2
Non-Center/Home Child Care	3	0	2	1	2	1	1	0	10	41.7
Babysitter	3	10	17	21	5	9	4	3	72	38.1
Other Child Care Provider	2	4	0	9	2	3	2	2	24	38.1
Landlord	12	8	12	41	5	11	10	9	108	35.6
Anonymous	74	82	133	389	66	90	74	64	952	22.4
Other Reporting Source	28	26	41	92	15	36	22	27	287	32.8
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	3	30.0
Total Other	122	130	205	533	95	153	113	105	1,456	25.6
TOTAL NON-MANDATED REPORTERS	406	445	738	2,603	352	513	429	381	5,867	32.8
TOTAL ALL REPORTERS	1,331	1,641	2,734	8,867	934	1,617	1,383	1,030	19,537	47.1

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Figure 2
Types of Abuse and Neglect Harms Reported
Fiscal Year 1985

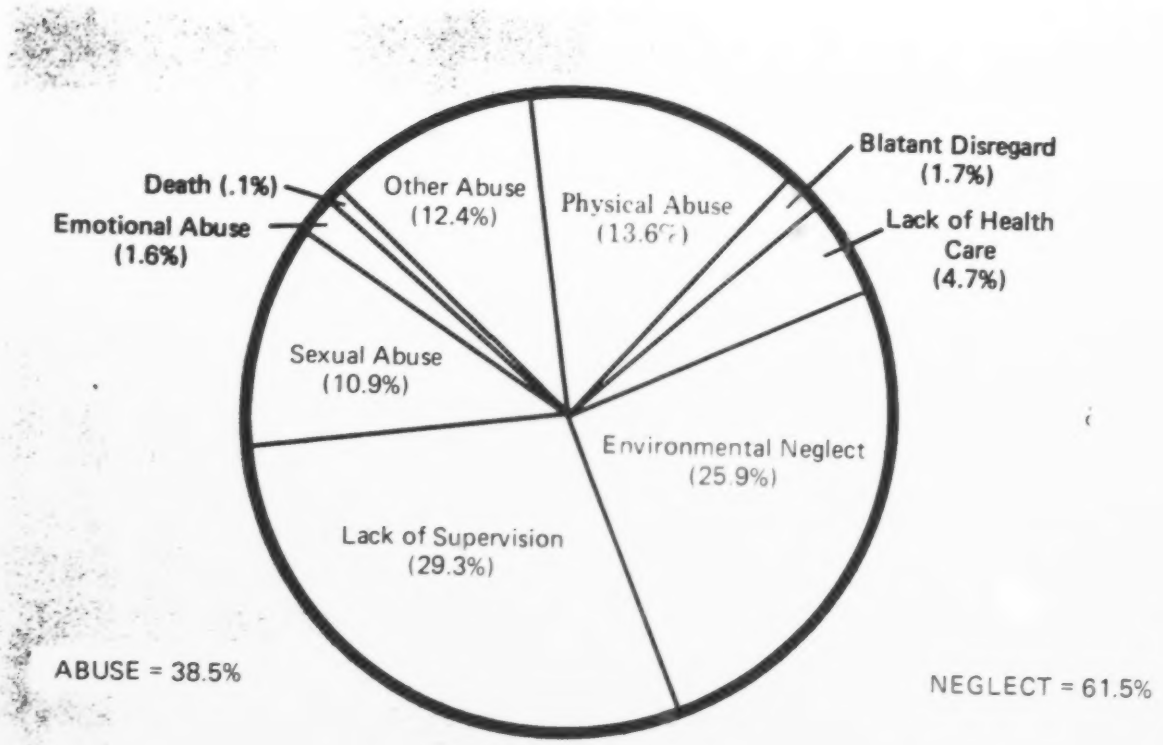

Table 9
Regional Distribution By Types of Reports
Fiscal Year 1985

Region	Abuse		Neglect		Both	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Rockford	1,206	47.3	1,081	42.4	264	10.3
Peoria	1,849	47.6	1,684	43.3	352	9.1
Aurora	2,927	47.8	2,564	41.8	638	10.4
Chicago	7,031	41.0	7,991	46.6	2,127	12.4
Springfield	1,156	46.9	1,065	43.2	242	9.8
Champaign	1,629	44.6	1,662	45.5	361	9.9
East St. Louis	1,370	43.7	1,425	45.5	340	10.8
Marion	1,216	48.7	1,052	42.1	231	9.2
STATE	18,384	44.3	18,524	44.7	4,555	11.0

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B. Investigation of Reports of Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect

1. Organization of Protective Services Teams. The Division of Child Protection, of which the State Central Register is a part, is responsible for abuse and neglect investigations, institutional/foster home investigations, and licensing functions. Child protective investigations are conducted by Department staff in eight service regions (Figure 3): Aurora, Champaign, Chicago, East St. Louis, Marion, Peoria, Rockford, and Springfield. Each region has at least two investigative teams responsible for investigating reports of suspected abuse or neglect. Indicated reports (those in which the Department determined child abuse or neglect existed) are referred to the Division of Program Operations for follow-up evaluations and services.

The Division of Child Protection has investigative staff strategically located throughout the state to respond to suspected child abuse and neglect reports. Investigative workers, who are available 24 hours a day, are responsible for all child protection activities, beginning with the receipt of a report of alleged abuse or neglect and concluding with a determination that the report is indicated or unfounded. The teams must also provide or arrange for emergency protective services as required.

The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act requires that the Department commence an investigation within 24 hours of receipt of a report of suspected child abuse or neglect. If it appears that the family may flee or the child disappear, or if the facts otherwise so warrant, an investigation is commenced immediately. Commencement of an investigation begins when an in-person contact, or a "good faith" attempted contact, is made with the alleged child victim(s).

2. Allegation-Based Investigations. Child protection investigations in Illinois were enhanced during fiscal 1985 by revision of the way child abuse and neglect allegations (harms) are defined and applied.

An investigation of suspected child abuse and/or neglect can have a devastating effect on a family and its members, whether or not the allegations are later determined to be indicated or unfounded. A major purpose of an allegation-based child protection model is to focus the investigator's attention on specific incidents or circumstances. This emphasis eliminates the need to review every aspect of a family's life and environment.

Figure 3
DCFS Regional Map

The allegation-based system also allows each specific type of abuse and neglect to be precisely defined and treated consistently throughout the state. Major changes to the allegation system include:

- An alleged perpetrator must be 16 years of age or older, unless sexual abuse is suspected, or the alleged perpetrator is the child's parent or the parent's paramour.

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Table 10
Distribution of Reports by Allegation
Fiscal Year 1985

	Total Harms	Total Indicated Harms	Percent Indicated
ABUSE	37,396	18,061	48.3
I. Death	46	27	58.7
II. Physical Abuse	13,169	5,722	43.5
Brain Damage/Skull Fracture	107	39	36.4
Subdural Hematoma	46	25	54.3
Internal Injuries	43	27	62.8
Burns/Scalding	871	189	21.7
Poison/Noxious Substance	35	11	31.4
Wounds	46	25	54.3
Bone Fractures	353	152	43.1
Cuts and Bruises	11,459	5,140	44.9
Human Bites	148	92	62.2
Sprains/Dislocations	61	22	36.1
III. Emotional Abuse	1,547	499	32.3
Tying/Close Confinement	579	199	34.4
Substance Abuse	763	230	30.1
Torture	129	54	41.9
Mental Injury	76	16	21.1
IV. Sexual Abuse	10,597	6,286	59.3
Sexually Transmitted Diseases	230	131	57.0
Sexual Intercourse	3,726	2,185	58.6
Sexual Exploitation	990	507	51.2
Sexual Molestation	5,651	3,463	61.3
V. Other Abuse	12,037	5,527	45.9
Substantial Risk of Harm	12,037	5,527	45.9
NEGLECT	59,803	24,648	41.2
VI. Blatant Disregard	1,683	790	46.9
Death	69	28	40.6
Brain Damage/Skull Fracture	73	46	63.0
Subdural Hematoma	12	5	41.7
Internal Injuries	9	5	55.6
Burns/Scalding	427	202	47.3
Poison/Noxious Substances	72	23	31.9
Wounds	21	8	38.1
Bone Fractures	115	60	52.2
Cuts and Bruises	517	230	44.5
Human Bites	21	8	38.1
Sprains/Dislocations	11	1	9.1
Substance Abuse	310	161	51.9
Mental Injury	26	13	50.0
VII. Lack of Supervision	28,446	12,517	44.0
Inadequate Supervision	26,412	11,689	44.3
Abandonment/Desertion	825	447	54.2
Lock Out	1,209	381	31.5
VIII. Environmental Neglect	25,143	9,289	36.9
Inadequate Food	7,941	1,715	21.6
Inadequate Shelter	3,575	1,739	48.6
Inadequate Clothing	1,898	581	30.6
Educational Neglect	2,215	1,378	62.2
Environmental Neglect	9,514	3,876	40.7
IX. Lack of Health Care	4,531	2,052	45.3
Medical Neglect	4,232	1,852	43.8
Failure to Thrive	236	167	70.8
Malnutrition	63	33	52.4
STATE TOTAL	97,199*	42,709	43.9

* Does not include 69 allegations that were incorrectly coded

- "Blatant disregard" has been added to neglect harms. "Blatant disregard" may be displayed in incidents in which the risk of harm to a child is so imminent and apparent that it is unlikely that any parent or caretaker would expose the child to such without taking precautionary measures to protect the child. A child may sustain a harm (e.g., brain damage or death) because of the "blatant disregard" of the parent or caretaker's responsibility to oversee and protect the child.
- "Reasonable efforts to stop abuse" has been added to the definition of abuse. The term is defined as those actions which could have stopped abuse of a child without posing an imminent threat to the person's own safety. (Minors, for example, are not expected to intervene between an adult and another child.)

3. Temporary Protective Custody. The Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act authorizes taking temporary protective custody of a child (that is, removing a child from his home) by Department investigators, law enforcement officers, and physicians. Temporary protective custody is taken if a child is in imminent danger of abuse and/or neglect. The decision to take such custody must be reviewed by an appropriate court within 48 hours.

During fiscal year 1985, 6,452 children were taken into temporary protective custody as compared to 5,473 children in fiscal year 1984 (Table 11). This total represents 9.3 percent of all children reported as victims of suspected abuse and/or neglect. The Chicago Region had the highest percent of temporary protective custodies and the Springfield Region had the lowest.

Table 11
Children Taken Into Temporary Protective Custody
Fiscal Year 1985

Peoria	6,369	622	393	9.8
Chicago	29,906	3,248	1,983	10.9
Champaign	5,912	478	297	8.1
Marion	4,097	265	182	6.5
TOTAL				

IV. Results of Investigations

A. Finding Status of Reports

Within seven days of receipt of a report, the investigator must send a detailed preliminary report to the State Central Register to update computer files. A follow-up disposition report must be completed by the investigator within 60 days, although one 30-day extension may be granted in special circumstances. A major objective of the Division of Child Protection is to complete investigations within 10 working days in order to minimize the impact of an investigation on families.

A follow-up disposition report may be classified in one of three categories: undetermined, unfounded, or indicated. A report is classified as undetermined if the investigator could not make a decision within 60 days and has requested a 30-day extension. At the end of the additional 30 days, the investigator must either "unfound" or "indicate" the report.

If a report is unfounded, the report by law must be expunged from the computer system, and all files at the State Central Register must be destroyed. If indicated, the report remains in the computer for at least five years. Notification letters of the findings are sent to all alleged perpetrators and mandated reporters involved in the report.

Of the 41,463 family reports of suspected child abuse and neglect in fiscal year 1985, the Department found that abuse and neglect were indicated in 19,537 reports. Involved as victims of indicated abuse and neglect were 32,545 children, an average of 1.67 children per indicated family report. The regional distribution of alleged child victims and indicated investigations can be noted in Table 12.

The National Study of the Incidence and Severity of Child Abuse and Neglect estimated that 7.6 children per 1,000 are victims of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect.[1] Illinois' indicated rate of 10.0 per 1,000 is higher than national estimates. The percentage of indicated family reports varied from 37.9 percent in the Springfield Region to 52.2 percent in the Rockford Region (Table 13). Variances among regions may be due to the actual incidence of child abuse and neglect in a given area or to socioeconomic factors.

Reports of suspected child abuse and neglect made by court/law enforcement personnel had the highest rate (64.1 percent) of all reporting

NOTE

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, op. cit., 1981.

Table 12
Regional Distribution of Child Victims in Indicated Investigations
Fiscal Year 1985

Region	Indicated Investigations	Indicated Child Victims	Child Victims Per Indicated Investigation	Child Victims Per 1,000 Children Under 18 Years Old
Rockford	1,341	2,305	1.96	12.8
Peoria	1,641	2,740	1.67	10.0
Aurora	2,734	4,278	1.56	8.8
Chicago	8,867	15,033	1.70	12.9
Springfield	894	1,527	1.64	9.4
Champaign	1,617	2,640	1.63	12.6
East St. Louis	1,323	2,428	1.75	12.9
Marion	1,030	1,698	1.65	11.2
STATE	19,537	32,545	1.67	10.0

Table 13
Results of Investigations of Family Reports by Region and Type of Report
Fiscal Year 1985

Region	Total Reports	Number of Indicated Reports				Percent of Reports Indicated			
		Total	Abuse	Neglect	Both	Total	Abuse	Neglect	Both
Rockford	2,551	1,331	649	508	174	52.2	53.8	47.0	65.9
Peoria	3,385	1,641	816	624	201	48.5	44.1	37.1	57.1
Aurora	6,129	2,734	1,322	1,057	355	44.6	45.2	41.2	55.6
Chicago	17,149	8,867	3,721	3,767	1,379	51.7	52.9	47.1	64.8
Springfield	2,463	934	450	362	122	37.9	38.9	34.0	50.4
Champaign	3,652	1,617	729	693	195	44.3	44.8	41.7	54.0
East St. Louis	3,135	1,383	649	569	165	44.1	47.4	39.9	48.5
Marion	2,499	1,030	527	391	112	41.2	43.3	37.2	48.5
STATE	41,463	19,537	8,863	7,971	2,703	47.1	45.5	43.0	59.3

sources. The indicated rates by reporting sources can be noted in Table 14. The indicated rate for all mandated reporters was 58.0 percent, compared to that of non-mandated reporters, 32.8 percent.

Of the 97,199 reported harms as a result of alleged abuse and neglect investigated by the Department, 42,709 (43.9 percent) were indicated.

As noted in Table 10, abuse harms accounted for only 38.5 percent of the total reported allegations, but 48.3 percent of the abuse harms were indicated. Only 41.2 percent of all reported neglect harms were indicated. Figure 4 illustrates the percentage of all indicated harms in the major abuse and neglect categories.

B. Fatalities

Child abuse and neglect can result in permanent physical, emotional, and mental damage to a child. The more severe forms may result in the child's death. Nationwide, child deaths from neglect occur most often from deprivation of necessities (lack of food, shelter, clothing, and medical care).

The Chicago Region, which has 45.1 percent of the state's 0-18-year-old population, accounted for 60.3 percent of the child abuse and neglect deaths over the past five fiscal years. The fewest number of deaths has consistently occurred in the Rockford Region.

Figure 4
Percent of Indicated Harms
Fiscal Year 1985

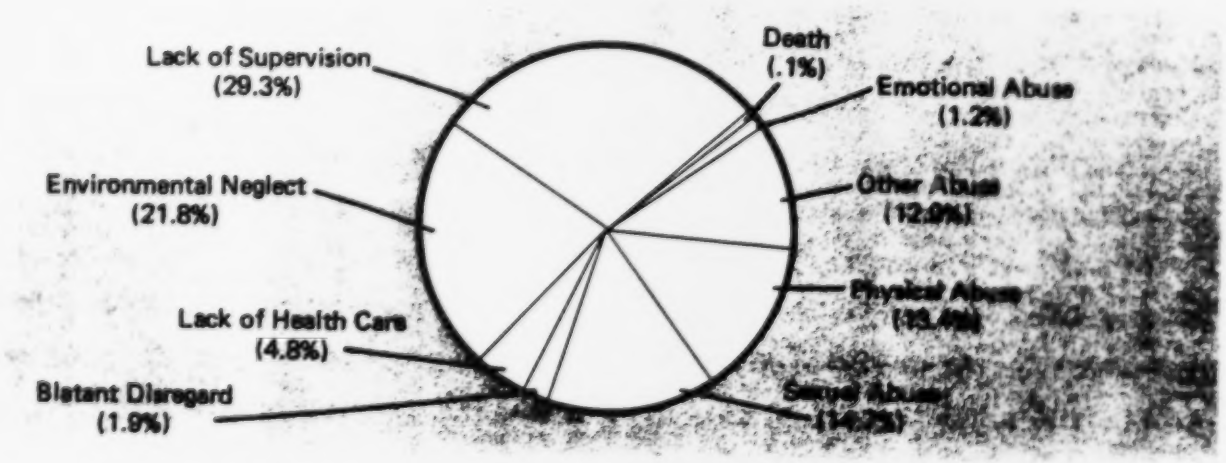


Table 8B
Distribution by County of Family Reports, Alleged Child Victims, and Harms
Fiscal Year 1985

Adams	360	596	1.65	770	1.29
Bond	49	71	1.44	92	1.29
Brown	20	32	1.60	42	1.31
Calhoun	10	16	1.60	23	1.43
Cass	62	98	1.58	120	1.22
Christian	137	211	1.54	291	1.37
Clay	61	94	1.54	126	1.34
Coles	276	460	1.66	639	1.38
Crawford	48	69	1.43	88	1.27
DeKalb	225	339	1.50	457	1.34
Douglas	57	96	1.68	133	1.38
Edgar	85	139	1.63	176	1.26
Effingham	110	170	1.54	244	1.43
Ford	43	73	1.69	99	1.35
Fulton	197	301	1.52	415	1.37
Greene	63	114	1.80	173	1.51
Hamilton	23	43	1.86	62	1.44
Hardin	15	22	1.46	27	1.22
Henry	134	221	1.64	287	1.29
Jackson	288	439	1.52	600	1.36
Jefferson	178	302	1.69	398	1.31
Jo Daviess	69	119	1.72	160	1.34
Kane	1,353	2,236	1.65	3,140	1.40
Kendall	83	119	1.43	152	1.27
Lake	1,388	2,138	1.54	2,815	1.31
Lawrence	49	88	1.79	120	1.36
Livingston	148	252	1.70	337	1.33
Macon	722	1,220	1.68	1,647	1.35
Madison	1,190	1,992	1.67	2,760	1.38
Marshall	29	52	1.79	66	1.26
Massac	77	123	1.59	170	1.38
McHenry	441	669	1.51	887	1.32
Menard	42	72	1.71	94	1.30
Monroe	32	45	1.40	62	1.37
Morgan	155	246	1.58	342	1.39
Ogle	146	245	1.67	334	1.36
Perry	87	149	1.71	179	1.20
Pike	70	123	1.75	148	1.20
Pulaski	60	128	2.13	164	1.28
Randolph	113	165	1.46	211	1.27
Rock Island	821	1,253	1.52	1,617	1.29
Sangamon	886	1,443	1.62	1,918	1.32
Scott	16	32	2.00	42	1.31
Stark	11	25	2.27	30	1.20
Stephenson	223	364	1.63	462	1.26
Union	104	161	1.54	200	1.36
Wabash	63	100	1.58	144	1.44
Washington	42	64	1.52	80	1.25
White	66	110	1.66	156	1.41
Will	1,193	1,923	1.61	2,641	1.37
Winnebago	1,341	2,115	1.57	2,874	1.35
Not Specified	8	12	1.50	16	1.33

More than three-fourths of all child abuse and neglect deaths involve children under the age of 3 (Table 16). The child victim has most often been a male (58.3 percent) and most often black (56.6 percent).

The number of child fatalities resulting from abuse and neglect for the past five fiscal years is presented in Table 15.

C. Sexual Abuse Reports

The actual number of sexually abused children in Illinois (and in the United States) is unknown. A child victim may not disclose a sexual assault for fear of rejection, blame, or punishment. Parents themselves may not report the sexual abuse of their child, fearing that an investigation of the incident would be more damaging than any physical or emotional harm the child might have experienced from the assault. While national estimates of sexual abuse of children are approximately 7 percent of all reported child abuse, the true incidence may be much higher.

The number of Illinois children reported as victims of sexual abuse has increased dramatically over the past two fiscal years (Table 17). Increased public awareness of child sexual abuse has contributed to this growth. Television programs, newspaper columns, magazine articles, and other media activities have focused on the subject during the past two years. The dramatic rise in reports of child sexual abuse—35.1 percent in fiscal year 1984 and 47.9 percent in fiscal year 1985—owes much to these factors.

Table 15
Indicated Death Reports by Region
Fiscal Years 1981 through 1985

Region	FY81	FY82	FY83	FY84	FY85
Peoria	1	5	7	5	3
Chicago	61	51	36	31	35
Champaign	4	1	11	3	2
Marion	2	5	1	2	5

*Amended

During fiscal year 1985, 8,116 Illinois children were alleged to have been sexually abused (Tables 17A and 17B). In other words, 11.7 percent of all alleged child abuse and/or neglect victims were reported as being sexually abused by a parent, an immediate family member, a paramour of the child's parent, an individual residing in the same home as the child, or another person responsible for the child's welfare. Investigations by the Department of sexual abuse reports found credible evidence that 4,758 children reported were in fact sexually abused.

Although the majority of indicated fiscal year 1985 sexual abuse reports involved a white female

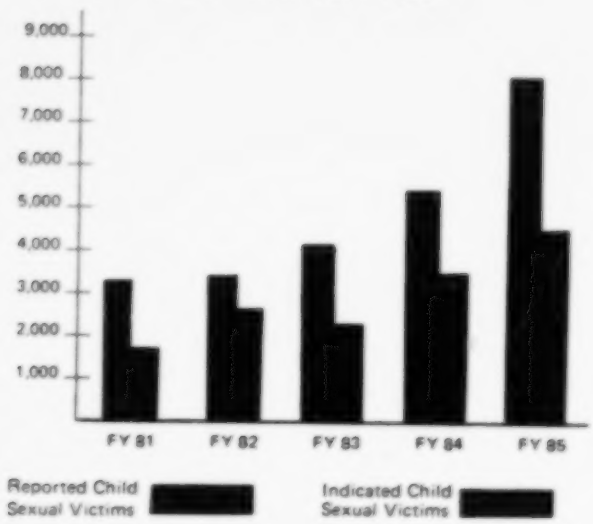
Table 16
Characteristics of Indicated Abuse/Neglect Deaths
Fiscal Years 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985

01	68	47	21	19	42	7	0	0
03	22	13	9	8	10	3	0	1
05	16	8	8	5	10	1	0	0
13 - 17	5	3	2	3	2	0	0	0

age 10 years or older (Table 18), the 3-9-year-old group is almost as vulnerable to sexual assault.

During fiscal year 1985, a natural parent was indicated in the sexual abuse of a child in approximately one out of every three child reports (Table 19A). A combination of natural parents and step-parents accounted for nearly half of all indicated sexual abuse perpetrators.

Table 17
Number of Alleged Sexual Abuse Victims
Fiscal Years 1981–1985



The perpetrator in 83.1 percent of sexual abuse cases was male. (See Table 19B). Age and racial characteristics of sexual abuse perpetrators are presented in Tables 19C and 19D. The most common age range for indicated perpetrators was between 30 and 40 (29.1 percent). Most perpetrators (65.2 percent) were white.

D. Perpetrators

Each family report of suspected child abuse and/or neglect to the State Central Register may contain multiple alleged perpetrators and child victims. The perpetrator-child relationship may also vary in a single family report (e.g., the perpetrator may be the natural parent of one child victim and a step-parent of another child victim in the family). In addition, a perpetrator may abuse or neglect more than one child within the family. Data presented in Tables 20, 21 and 22, therefore, contain duplicated counts of the perpetrator if the perpetrator abused or neglected more than one child within the family.

A natural parent was most often indicated as perpetrator in all reports. During fiscal year 1985, 75.8 percent of all indicated child victims were abused and/or neglected by natural parent(s). Nearly three-quarters of the time, the natural mother was the perpetrator. Natural fathers were more likely to be indicated for abuse of a child rather than for neglect. The cultural role of the

Table 17A
Number of Alleged Sexual Abuse Reports and Alleged Child Victims by Region
Fiscal Year 1985

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Champaign	683	404	59.2	84
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
East St. Louis	714	389	54.5	78
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Peoria	863	513	59.4	94
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Springfield	476	253	53.2	46
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Table 17B
Number of Alleged Sexual Abuse Reports
Alleged Child Victims by County
Fiscal Year 1985

County	Children Reported	Children Indicated	Percent Indicated	Number of Protective Custodies
Adams	63	37	58.7	8
Alexander	18	11	61.0	1
Bond	18	16	88.9	4
Boone	22	17	77.3	2
Brown	3	1	33.3	0
Bureau	25	14	56.0	1
Carroll	14	12	85.7	3
Cass	13	7	53.8	0
Champaign	150	93	62.0	25
Christian	21	10	47.6	3
Clark	9	7	77.8	0
Clay	24	14	58.3	1
Clinton	14	13	92.9	0
Coles	47	29	61.7	8
Cook	3,117	1,876	60.2	300
Crawford	10	4	40.0	1
Cumberland	10	4	40.0	0
DeKalb	52	37	71.2	4
DeWitt	20	5	25.0	0
Douglas	14	4	28.6	0
DuPage	222	132	59.5	5
Edgar	11	8	46.0	1
Edwards	1	1	100.0	0
Effingham	21	15	66.7	0
Fayette	24	10	41.7	3
Ford	25	20	80.0	3
Franklin	51	38	74.5	9
Fulton	42	22	51.2	6
Gallatin	1	0	0.0	0
Greene	11	4	36.4	1
Grundy	15	12	80.0	4
Hamilton	3	1	33.3	0
Hancock	17	8	47.1	2
Hardin	4	0	0.0	0
Henderson	3	1	33.3	1
Henry	36	27	75.1	5
Iroquois	22	11	50.0	3
Jackson	18	20	58.8	5
Jasper	8	2	25.0	2
Jefferson	20	17	75.0	6
Jersey	18	11	61.1	3
Jo Daviess	13	8	61.5	2
Johnson	7	3	42.9	2
Kane	234	134	56.8	12
Kankakee	98	49	50.0	9
Kendall	14	8	57.1	1
Knox	61	34	55.7	3
LaSalle	69	37	54.0	16
Lake	282	142	50.4	42
Lawrence	11	6	54.6	0
Lee	30	22	73.3	3
Livingston	24	16	66.7	2

County	Children Reported	Children Indicated	Percent Indicated	Number of Protective Custodies
Logan	33	25	75.8	7
Macon	136	98	72.1	24
Macoupin	32	16	50.0	1
Madison	313	160	51.1	37
Marion	56	29	51.8	4
Marshall	11	4	36.4	0
Mason	21	18	85.7	1
Massac	12	10	83.3	2
McDonough	33	19	57.6	5
McHenry	76	33	43.4	10
McLean	77	52	67.5	7
Menard	13	7	53.2	0
Mercer	29	19	65.5	6
Monroe	7	5	71.4	0
Montgomery	12	8	66.7	1
Morgan	28	19	67.1	3
Moultrie	1	0	0.0	0
Ogle	30	22	61.1	3
Peoria	176	88	50.0	17
Perry	24	4	16.7	1
Piatt	12	7	58.3	1
Pike	10	5	50.0	0
Pope	1	0	0.0	0
Pulaski	11	6	72.7	1
Putnam	4	2	50.0	0
Randolph	44	26	59.1	10
Richland	23	11	47.8	1
Rock Island	181	121	66.9	6
Saline	28	16	57.1	4
Sangamon	127	70	45.4	15
Schuyler	2	1	50.0	1
Scott	1	1	100.0	0
Shelby	11	6	54.5	0
St. Clair	256	140	55.5	27
Stark	4	4	100.0	0
Stephenson	40	29	72.5	7
Tazewell	129	75	58.1	23
Union	20	11	55.0	2
Vermilion	124	76	61.3	19
Wabash	25	10	33.9	3
Warren	10	4	40.0	1
Washington	20	9	45.0	4
Wayne	10	6	60.0	1
White	12	5	41.7	2
Whiteside	68	54	79.4	17
Will	240	150	64.2	25
Williamson	80	50	62.5	5
Winnebago	224	132	57.9	44
Woodford	30	22	73.3	6
Unknown	2	1	50.0	0
STATE	8,116	4,703	58.0	658

Table 18
Demographic Characteristics of Children in Indicated Sexual Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1985

0-2	269	5.7
6-9	1,120	23.5
14-17	1,165	24.5
Total	4,758	100.0%
Sex of Child		
Girls	3,879	81.5
Total	4,758	100.0%
Child's Ethnic Group		
Black	1,222	25.7
Other/not reported	116	2.5

Table 19A
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Relationship to Child Victim in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1985

Step-Parent	12.7
Parental Substitute	10.0
Sibling	9.0
Grandparent	4.1
Foster Parent	.9
Group Home/Institution Staff	.4

*Note: Duplicated Count

Table 19B
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Sex in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1985

Male	83.1
Not Identified	.9

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

Table 19C
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Age in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1985

20-30	19.6
40-50	13.6
Not Identified	9.2

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

Table 19D
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Race in Sexual Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1985

White	65.2
Spanish	6.3
Not Identified	2.0

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

Table 20
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Relationship to Child Victim in All Reports of Abuse/Neglect
Fiscal Year 1985

*N = 42,977 Relationship	Percent of Involvement	N = 16,518 Percent Male	N = 26,262 Percent Female
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Parental Substitute	5.6	91.8	8.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Step-Parent	5.3	86.9	13.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aunt/Uncle	2.4	63.7	35.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Adoptive Parent	0.6	64.2	35.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TOTAL	100.0%	38.4	61.1

*Note: Each family report of suspected child abuse/neglect may contain up to four (4) caretaker(s)/perpetrator(s) and up to ten (10) alleged child victims. The relationship of the caretaker(s)/perpetrator(s) may vary among the alleged child victim(s). For example, a perpetrator is alleged to have abused five (5) children in the family. The perpetrator is the natural parent of one (1) child and the step-parent of the other four (4) children. "N" therefore, represents a duplicated count of each perpetrator to each child victim. The male and female categories above do not add up to a total of 42,977 because 207 reports did not specify the sex of the alleged perpetrator.

Table 21
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Relationship to Child Victims in Abuse Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1985

*N = 18,098 Relationship	Percent of Involvement	N = 10,469 Percent Male	N = 7,348 Percent Female
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Step-Parent	9.5	87.8	12.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other (Not Related)	8.5	69.2	21.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Babysitter	4.1	65.7	34.0
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Adoptive Parent	1.0	68.6	31.4
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TOTAL	100.0%	58.3	40.8

*Note: Duplicated Count

Table 22
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Relationship to Child Victim in Neglect Reports Only
Fiscal Year 1985

Natural Parent	87.6	20.1	79.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Parental Substitute	3.0	87.1	12.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Aunt/Uncle	1.4	33.9	64.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sibling	0.5	33.9	66.1
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Adoptive Parent	0.2	50.0	50.0
TOTAL	100.0%	24.1	75.7

*Note: Duplicated Count

Table 23
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Age in All Reports of Abuse/Neglect
Fiscal Year 1985

*N = 24,673 Age Group	Percent	N = 10,348 Percent Male	N = 14,099 Percent Female
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
20 - 30	36.7	30.1	69.8
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
40 - 50	10.3	58.4	41.5
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Not Identified	9.7	51.7	42.8
TOTAL	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count

Table 24
Percent of Indicated Perpetrators by Race in All Reports of Abuse/Neglect
Fiscal Year 1985

*N = 24,673 Race	Percent	N = 10,348 Percent Male	N = 14,099 Percent Female
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Black	34.5	31.1	68.7
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Other	1.0	44.0	55.2
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TOTAL	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

*Note: Non-Duplicated Count, male and female numbers do not include 166 perpetrators whose sex is not known.

mother in a family—being responsible for the physical care of the children, while the father is responsible for discipline—may affect the apparently disproportionate representation of natural parent perpetrators. In addition, 18.4 percent of all families with children under age 18 in Illinois are headed by a female with no husband present.

In all other perpetrator-child relationship groups, males are more likely to be indicated for abuse of the child, while females are more likely to be indicated for neglect.

The majority of all perpetrators are between the ages of 20 and 40 (Table 23), with more than one-third of all perpetrators between ages 20 and 30. For male perpetrators, indicated rates generally increase with age, while for female perpetrators rates decrease with age.

Since black children are disproportionately reported as being abused or neglected, black perpetrators are also disproportionately represented. Within ethnic groups by sex, black females represent the largest proportion of indicated perpetrators (Table 24).

E. Service Delivery

The Division of Program Operations is responsible for the second major component of child protective services: the provision of services to remedy problems and to prevent harm to children. When an investigation results in an indicated finding, the investigative unit transfers the case to a service unit in the Division of Program Operations. Service staff either provide or purchase the services that are needed to protect the child from harm. Whenever possible, the family unit is preserved intact as long as the child is safe. The Division of Program Operations pursues the fulfillment of its mission to protect and care for children in one of six goals in the family's service plans. These "permanency goals" define the direction and purpose of service plans as indicated by individual needs.

The six goals are:

- Family Preservation: Maintaining the child in the home is the preferred goal when the child's safety and well-being are assured.
- Family Reunification: Returning children to their parents' home is the preferred goal for children who have been placed in substitute care.
- Adoption: Adoption is the preferred permanency goal when the biological family is unwilling or unable to care for a child.
- Long-Term Placement: Long-term placement is generally not a preferred goal for a child since it fails to provide the child with a sense of continuity and belonging. Long-term placement is a goal only when a child over age 14 years does not want to be adopted, when the court refuses to terminate parental rights, or when relatives or foster parents commit themselves to raise the child to maturity.
- Independence: Independence may be a goal for mature older adolescents who have demonstrated the ability to care for themselves, who do not wish to be adopted, and who have the potential to attain economic self-sufficiency.
- Continuous Care: A small percentage of the Department's wards have severe physical, mental, or emotional handicaps. Most often these children receive services in long-term facilities. The goal for them is the provision of humane continuous care.

The cluster of services provided by the service units to achieve a permanency goal may include counseling, homemaker services, protective day care, foster or residential care, and advocacy. Protective services are provided, arranged for, and monitored until it is deemed appropriate to terminate services according to the needs of the child/family and Department rules and procedures.

V. Accomplishments in Fiscal Year 1985

A. Enhancing the Child Protection System

Fiscal year 1985 was a year for growth, change, and progress in the Department of Children and Family Services. Significant accomplishments of the Division of Child Protection, which includes the State Central Register, Office of Licensing, Office of Appeals and Hearings, Office of Quality Control and Reporting, and all licensing teams and child protective investigative teams in the state, included the following:

- Comprehensive new definitions of child abuse and neglect allegations were developed and implemented.
- An in-depth management study of the State Central Register was conducted, resulting in new procedures and workload ratios.
- The Child Protection Appeal and Hearing System was significantly modified, including the formation of a Child Protection Appeals Board.
- New workload ratios for child sexual abuse investigators and licensing staff were formulated.
- A risk assessment instrument was developed and implemented for child abuse/neglect investigations.

- Two statewide conferences were conducted on child sexual abuse, leading to the development of protocols for prevention and investigation of sexual abuse and treatment of sexually abused children.
- All procedures and forms for child abuse/neglect investigations were streamlined for early implementation.
- New training programs for investigative staff, utilizing the nationally recognized investigation training firm of John Reid and Associates, were established.
- A special task force was appointed to develop a child death autopsy protocol and guidelines for differentiating accidental from intentional injuries.
- Formal testing of several hundred Department and private agency licensing staff was implemented to test their knowledge of the Child Care Act and licensing standards.
- Special photo identification cards for child protection investigators and licensing staff were developed.
- Four specialized prevention brochures were written and distributed to more than one hundred thousand users of day care services.
- Quality control reviews were expanded to include licensing units for the first time.
- The federally funded Illinois/Louisiana Child Fatality Project was completed.
- The first statewide licensing conference in over ten years was held.
- The Division redefined the role of investigative teams to emphasize a more sophisticated investigative model.
- The first computerized tracking system for licensing complaints was developed.
- The Child Welfare Services Intake Unit in Chicago was transferred to the Division of Child Protection, resulting in an improved intake response rate and reduction of the number of staff required in the Intake Unit.
- An agreement was formalized with the Illinois State Board of Education on reporting by local school districts of child abuse and neglect.
- A formal agreement with the Illinois Department of State Police on joint investigations of serious child sexual abuse reports was completed.
- A fingerprinting program and criminal history check for foster home applicants was implemented.
- Additional hotline social workers were hired at the State Central Register.

B. Prevention Programs

The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services has long recognized the need for prevention programs in its struggle to curb child abuse and neglect. With reports of child sexual abuse increasing 72 percent since 1983 and alarming statistics of physical abuse and neglect, the need for an effective comprehensive prevention program is obvious.

In addition, it is well known that the problem of child maltreatment did not start with the current generation, nor will it end here. People who are abused as children will often become abusive parents, and a growing body of evidence indicates a strong link between adults with serious emotional problems, substance dependencies, and violent antisocial behavior, and children who have suffered non-accidental injury resulting in physical, emotional, and mental impairment. With this in mind, the Department has implemented several prevention programs not aimed at treating existing problems, but instead seeking to improve family life by enhancing and promoting the positive qualities and strengths inherent in all individuals and families. These prevention programs include:

Child Abuse Prevention Fund: Created by the Illinois General Assembly in 1984, this program allows Illinois taxpayers to donate up to $10 ($20 for couples filing joint returns) of their state income tax refunds to support community prevention efforts.

Administered by DCFS, the Child Abuse Prevention Fund has distributed over $840,000 among 32 community agencies statewide, reaching approximately 20,000 participants. Their services include community education, sexual abuse pre-

vention education, a parent helpline, parent aides, parenting training, and peer support groups.

Building Bridges: In an effort to get more schools involved in preventing and reporting sexual abuse, DCFS introduced its "Building Bridges" program—a model personal protection and sexual abuse prevention program designed for elementary school children.

The aim of this project is to provide volunteers and child care professionals with a comprehensive, concise, easy-to-use tool for instructing elementary-age children to identify and protect themselves against sexual victimization. DCFS conducted various workshops with parents and school staff in 1985. The topics of discussion included developing an effective curriculum, identifying sexual abuse indicators, how to deal with disclosure, reporting responsibilities to DCFS, and child personal safety issues.

Day Care Enhancement Initiative: When sexual abuse of children in day care centers became a major public issue in 1984, DCFS responded by sending, to all licensed day care centers and homes in Illinois, packets of three informational pamphlets for mandatory distribution among parents. These informational brochures covered how to choose and evaluate day care homes and centers, symptoms of sexual abuse and steps parents should take to protect their children, and measures parents should take to avoid the outbreak or spread of infectious diseases in day care centers.

In addition, the Department sponsored a series of eight free training seminars for day care center employees that focused upon identifying and reporting child abuse, suggestions on food preparation and sanitation, tips on prevention and control of communicable diseases, and the appropriate supervision of children.

Parents Too Soon/Ounce of Prevention: Concerned with the magnitude and complexity of the issues surrounding teen sexuality, pregnancy, and parenting, a public/private partnership between DCFS and the Pittway Corporation Charitable Foundation emerged in 1982 to establish the Ounce of Prevention Fund for the purpose of preventing child abuse and neglect and other serious parenting problems. Out of this fund came a model program, Parents Too Soon, to deal specifically with the problems of teen pregnancy.

Under the Parents Too Soon program, a full range of health, nutrition, educational/vocational, and other support services are offered to adolescents with the common goal of preventing unplanned/premature pregnancy and the problems associated with it. The Department's components of this program are home visitors to young families with newborn children, day care, and a parenting training and support group. Based upon the success of the original model, the Ounce of Prevention Fund currently supports, monitors, and evaluates 28 comprehensive, community-based Parents Too Soon programs.

C. Statewide Citizens' Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect

The Statewide Citizens' Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect was established in 1981 pursuant to Section 11.7 of the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act. The purpose of the committee is to provide consultation and advice to the Department on general policy involving the provision of protective services to children and their families. The committee is composed of individuals of distinction in human services, law, and community life across the state.

During fiscal year 1985, the committee made substantial contributions in improving the state's child protection programs. These contributions included:

- Promotion of the Child Abuse Prevention Fund, to which Illinois taxpayers may contribute up to $20 from their state income tax refund.
- Recommendations regarding the distribution of money from the fund.
- Participation in planning for the National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect.
- Consultation regarding the issue of school teachers as caregivers and subjects of child abuse and neglect reports.
- Participation in the revision of definitions of abuse and neglect allegations.
- Discussions on preventing child sexual abuse in licensed child care facilities.
- Proposals for improving child abuse and neglect legislation.

VI. Looking Ahead

Fiscal year 1986 promises many challenges to the Department of Children and Family Services. The number of children reported as suspected victims of abuse and neglect is likely to increase, along with expectations for fiscal responsibility and quality social service programs. The goals for the coming fiscal year include:

- Upgrading the State Central Register hotline with additional staff and modern equipment.
- Reviewing and revising child abuse and neglect investigative procedures.
- Developing professional guidelines for distinguishing between accidental and intentional injuries to children.
- Training of staff on the child death autopsy protocol.
- Developing a procedural and reference handbook for licensing staff.
- Revising institution, group home, and foster family home licensing standards.
- Redefining investigative techniques and skills of intra-family and institutional sexual abuse.
- Establishing policies and guidelines in the use of polygraph examinations.
- Reviewing and upgrading the Child Protection Investigator job classifications.
- Microfilming child abuse and neglect records.
- Establishing and evaluating a model child abuse and neglect investigative team.
- Implementing a public education campaign to encourage mandated reporters to report suspected child abuse/neglect.

With support and assistance from leaders, public and private agencies, and individual citizens, the state of Illinois has achieved national recognition for its child protection initiatives. The impetus for improving the Department's ability to assure safe and nurturing homes for Illinois children and to maintain a progressive and professional child protection system will continue in fiscal year 1986.

STATEWIDE CITIZENS' COMMITTEE ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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Chicago Police Department
Youth Division
Chicago

Brian Allen
Executive Director
Springfield Mental Health Center
Springfield

Ken Briggs
Executive Director
Illinois Association of Community Mental Health Agencies
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School Psychologist
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